

**Case 2884*****Xerammbates* Popov, 1951 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): proposed designation of *Ammobates* (*Xerammbates*) *oxianus* Popov, 1951 as the type species**

Donald B. Baker

*Hope Entomological Collections, University Museum, Oxford OX1 3PW, U.K.*

**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the current (and original) understanding of the name *Xerammbates* Popov, 1951 for a subgenus of ammobatine parasitic bees. The synonym *Micropasites* Warncke, 1983 is a junior homonym. The present type species of *Xerammbates*, i.e. *Ammobates biastoides* Friese, 1895, belongs to *Ammobates* sensu stricto and was misidentified by Popov. It is proposed that *Ammobates* (*Xerammbates*) *oxianus* Popov, 1951 be designated as the type species.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; parasitic bees; *Xerammbates*; *Ammobates*.

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1. Popov (1951, p. 904) proposed the name *Xerammbates* for a subgenus of *Ammobates* Latreille, 1809 (p. 169) containing *A. biastoides* Friese, 1895 (p. 131) and the two new species *A. (X.) oxianus* and *A. (X.) lebedevi*. He designated *A. biastoides* as the type species. Unfortunately, however, *A. biastoides* does not belong to *Xerammbates* as described and figured by Popov (pp. 904–905, 917–920, figs. 3, 5–7) but is a species of *Ammobates* sensu stricto. It must be assumed that the characters given for *A. biastoides* in Popov's key to *Ammobates* females (p. 908) were drawn from some misidentified Algerian ammobatine; the male of *A. biastoides* was not known to him (see his footnote to p. 908 and asterisk against name on p. 913 in key to males).

2. Warncke (1983, p. 283) proposed the subgeneric name *Micropasites* for three ammobatine species which included Popov's *A. (X.) oxianus* and *A. (X.) lebedevi*. Warncke did not adopt *Xerammbates* because he correctly considered that its type species *A. biastoides* did not belong to the same subgenus as the other species. To avoid secondary homonymy Warncke provided the replacement specific name *tunensis* for the third *Micropasites* species, *Ammobates* (*Xerammbates*) *minutissimus* Mavromoustakis, 1959 (p. 52), since he erroneously considered *Morgania minutissima* Cockerell, 1933 (p. 379) to belong to *Ammobates*. Warncke designated *A. tunensis* (i.e. *A. (X.) minutissimus*) as the type species of his subgenus *Micropasites*. Warncke's name *Micropasites* is invalid because it is preoccupied by *Micropasites* Linsley, 1942 (p. 130); the latter was proposed as a subgeneric name in *Gnathopasites* Linsley & Michener, 1939 (p. 272) and is currently accepted as a subgenus of *Neopasites* Ashmead, 1898 (p. 284).

3. It is proposed that the name *Xerammbates* should be validated in the sense intended by Popov (1951), i.e. as a subgeneric name for the group including the two

species known to and described by him (viz. *Ammobates oxianus* and *A. lebedevi*), by setting aside his designation of *A. biastoides* Friese, 1895 as type species and by designating *A. oxianus* Popov, 1951 (p. 917) in its place. *A. oxianus* is to be preferred to *A. lebedevi* (p. 919) as type species since it was described and figured by Popov in both sexes and he provided figures of the concealed sterna and genitalia of the male; *A. lebedevi* was known to him only from a single female. The holotype of *A. (X.) oxianus* is in the Zoological Museum in St. Petersburg.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal subgenus *Xerammbates* Popov, 1951 and to designate *Ammobates (Xerammbates) oxianus* Popov, 1951 as the type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Xerammbates* Popov, 1951 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) above *Ammobates (Xerammbates) oxianus* Popov, 1951;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *oxianus* Popov, 1951, as published in the binomen *Ammobates (Xerammbates) oxianus* (specific name of the type species of *Xerammbates* Popov, 1951);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Micropasites* Warncke, 1983 (a junior homonym of *Micropasites* Linsley, 1942).

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